office of Director General of Audit. In some of the Audit paras, the Audit has pointed out certain financial irregularities such as irregular payment of transport allowance, irregular payment of conveyance allowance, non-recovery of scooter advance, irregular payment of bonus to Group B officers, loss on account of irregular grant of financial assistance to faculty members, irregular payment of honorarium to some of the staff members, irregular payment of academic allowance to Group B officers, irregular payment on account of journeys undertaken by foreign airlines, etc.

Immediately on receipt of the audit report, the institute was directed to take immediate steps in this regard. The institute has informed that during the audit of the accounts of current year (2003-2004) conducted before 12.7.2004 to 17.9.2004, replies to 29 audit paras have been furnished for settlement. No further communication in this regard has been received from the Audit so far. For replies in respect of the remaining audit paras, necessary action has already been initiated by the institute.

In respect of irregularity regarding non-recovery of loan and advances granted to officers and staff, there is only one item in the Audit Inspection Report of 2002-2003 pertaining to non-recovery of scooter advance. The recovery has already been started from respective staff. No responsibility has been fixed by AIIMS in this regard.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Drought relief to Kerala

183. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal received from Government of Kerala seeking drought relief assistance from NCCF is pending with Government for sanction, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government assessed the loss sustained by deputing Central team; if so, the loss ascertained; and

(c) whether Government consider to release the assistance sought by the State Government; if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) As per available information, the Government of Kerala have so far submitted three Memoranda seeking drought relief assistance. The first two Memoranda seeking release of funds from NCCF have already been disposed off. In its third Memorandum of July, 2004 Government of Kerala has demanded Rs. 3847 crores from various sources for "revival of the agriculture sector" as an aftermath of the successive droughts. A Multi-Disciplinary Central Team was dispatched to visit Kerala in August, 2004 which has submitted its recommendations and are receiving attention of the Government.

Zero field from NDU-1 Urad Seeds

184. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that more than 5,000 farmers across Uttar Pradesh were supplied the wrong urad seeds for sowing earlier this year;

(b) whether all the farmers who sowed that seed called NDU-1 variety got zero yield;

(c) whether the urad seeds for the Kharif crop were supplied to farmers as Zayad seeds;

(d) if so, whether Government have done any investigations in this regard; and

(e) if so, whether the affected farmers would be given any compensation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) No wrong seed has been supplied to farmers as reported by the Government of Uttar Pradesh.

(b) Few farmers of Hardoi, Barabanki and Rai Bareilly districts reported that inspite of good germination and growth, the plants did not bear flowers and pods.

(c) NDU-1 is a State variety of Urad recommended for Kharif as well as for Zayad as per the information supplied by the State Government.